

STORY 31.

HOW MUSLIMS TREATED THEIR ENEMIES.

(HAZRAT) ALI was the fourth Caliph of the Prophet. He was distinguished for his piety, wisdom, knowledge and extraordinary personal bravery. What he said at his deathbed shows that he was too magnanimous to desire for revenge for his own tragic death at the hands of a Kharji. There was civil war between two parties of Muslims. Muaviya and (Hazrat) Ali were ranged on opposite sides. Peace seemed to have left Muslim society and it seemed that the splendid nation built by the Prophet and his two successors was in the process of disintegration.

Many persons who were wearied of this state of things were seriously thinking how to put an end to this internecine war. Three men more determined than others came to the conclusion that as long as Muaviya, (Hazrat) Ali and (Hazrat) Omar bin Ass lived, peace was not possible. So they determined to put them out of the way. Ibni Mulgum undertook to murder (Hazrat) Ali and one morning when (Hazrat) Ali was engaged in prayers he struck him a fatal blow on the head. When (Hazrat) Ali was on his deathbed the murderer was brought before him. If he had not been a true Muslim he perhaps would have caused him to be put to torture, to be torn to pieces, and would have satisfied his wrath in a variety of ways.

But what did he do? On seeing him he said quietly calmly "Feed this man well. Give him a soft bed to sleep on. If I live I shall have the right to grant him free pardon or to deal with him according to law. But if I die leave him alone and we shall settle it before the Lord."